

ACT FOUR.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

IV. Dr. Greer and wife, Supt., and Matron of School and Hospital, for Negrito Tribes in Mountains of Luzon.

Gertrude White, missionary nurse.

Scene 4.

(In joint office of little Mission School and Hospital, Dr. Greer, seated at his desk, his wife sitting nearby).

(1.) Mrs. Greer, Matron, speaks. Husband dear, this is the day, is it not, that our new nurse is to arrive to take the place of Miss Bessie Gordon, our martyred friend?

(2). Dr. Greer. Yes, wife, this is the day, and if nothing happens she should arrive very soon. I have sent our most faithful and trusted natives to meet her. Had I felt that you and the work would have been safe I would have gone to the port myself. But I could not think of leaving you and the pupils and sick ones alone this near the Monastery of that wicked St. Francis, as he styles himself. Far better would it be however, if the term saint was left off.

(3.) Mrs. Greer. Yes, husband, you did right

in sending the natives that you sent, for I am sure they are of the trusty kind and that they will arrive in due time with our new nurse safe and sound. But, husband, what I am afraid of is that in some way this wicked monk and priest will yet get us in his power and overthrow our school. I don't believe that he would stop at anything, so bitter is his hatred of the Protestants.

(4.) Dr. Greer. Yes, wife, you are right. He and his henchmen would do anything, even murder the rest of us as they did Miss Gordon, for I'm sure they did that, if by doing so they could only destroy our work and remove the Protestant faith from the land. I only wish we had proper police protection in this part of the Island. Just a few American regulars would change the whole situation. And I have appealed to the Governor General for better protection, but his forces are so limited that it seems that he can do nothing. We must make the best we can out of the situation, and when our new nurse arrives we must caution her to be careful, and not get out of sight of the school grounds. The trips that Miss Gordon made to help the natives that could not come here for help will have to be abandoned, all because of the dangerous character of this Romanish set.

(At this time a knock is heard at the office door, and Gertrude White, the new nurse, is received into the little office.)

(5.) Dr. Greer extends his hand. Miss Gertrude White, our new nurse, I presume, and he turns and introduces her to Mrs. Greer.

(6.) Gertrude. Yes, this is Miss White, Dr. Greer, and I am so glad that my journey is over, and that I am here at last. I am sure I will be delighted to find myself at work in this distant land caring for the sick and wounded, as did my Master, as He walked over the hills and plains of Judea.

(7.) Mrs. Greer. And we are glad to have you dear, and I am sure that you and I will be great friends and comrades in the work, and our need. For a nurse has been very great since the death of Miss Gordon. And you will be a great help to Dr. Greer and myself in caring for the sick and wounded that come to our little hospital.

(8.) Dr. Greer. Miss White, may I enquire if you had a pleasant trip, and if you found travelling safe all along your way?

(9.) Gertrude. Very pleasant indeed, Dr. Greer. The Pacific scenery was just grand and the great body of water seemed so grand and beautiful as we plowed our way through it on board the great mail steamer on which I came. The journey from the coast was just delightful. I enjoyed the ride immensely on the little narrow-gauge railroad to the little inland station where the natives met me. And the ride in the huge Buffalo cart was grand and without mishap with

the exception or one little incident that happened along the way.

(10.) Dr. Greer. And pray tell me about it. Did not the natives provide in every way for your safety and comfort as I directed them to do.

(11.) Gertrude. Oh, to be sure, Dr. Greer. That is, if you mean by the natives those kind-hearted fellows that you sent to escort me here. But pray tell me who were those fellows that we met in the mountain pass, with red collars and long black robes around them. They were very unkind to the natives that were driving the buffalo and did many things to hinder our passage through the mountain pass, and even became so rude as to hurl stones at us, one of which barely missed my head.

(12.) Dr. Greer (showing great consternation and alarm). Miss White do you mean to tell me that you were attacked on the way from the port by a band of fellows wearing long black robes with red collars.

(13.) Gertrude. Well not exactly attacked but certainly treated very rudely by them and had not our native guard proven true perhaps they would have acted even more roughly than they did.

14.) Dr. Greer (addressing his wife). Well wife, what do you think of that. The henchmen of St. Francis monastery have already tried their mischievous work on Miss White to embarrass her as they did Miss Gordon. (Turning to Miss

White). Miss White, these rude fellows are inmates of a monastery near by that is under a priest or monk by the name of St. Francis, with no emphasis whatever on the Saint. They are the same gang that we believe were responsible for the death of Miss Gordon, your predecessor here, and I want to give you this word of advice and warning, never even for the sake of a little walk, or even when the calls for help come strong from the afflicted women of the neighboring tribes, never permit yourself to get out of sight and easy hearing distance of the school and hospital building, for we have reason to believe that these fellows would do anything here to put an end to our work. And they seem to envy the nurses even more than they do me because the nurses by their angelic administrations, seem to get a greater hold upon the people than I do by my surgery and medical skill.

(15). Mrs. Greer. And Miss White, with these words of warning, and its getting late, husband and I will leave for our rounds through the wards and leave you to yourself that you may rest awhile. Your room in the building will be next to the office so that you may be near enough to answer all calls when Dr. Greer is out. I have set a waiter with a lunch on it, on the little table by your bed. I trust that you will eat and be refreshed, and then after you have rested awhile, you can take charge of your little Negrito patients

in the ward that will be assigned to you for your work. With this Dr. Greer and Mrs. Greer rises to go.

(16.) Gertrude. Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Greer, for your kindness and advice, and I assure you that after what you have told me I will follow it to the letter. But if, after the wickedness of their hearts, this band of Roman henchmen should desire and plan to do me hurt, and should be successful in their planning, be sure, dear friends, that I am ready to die, if need be, in the service of my Lord. I have weighed carefully before coming, every fact coupled with my experience as a Missionary here, and though it means suffering, danger and sorrow, I am determined to stay and do my best. For where my Lord leads me I will follow. I'll go with Him all the way.

With this the curtain drops.

End of Act No. 4.

ACT FIVE.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

V. Col. Ward, Commander 19th Regiment U. S. Regulars.

Corporal Charlie White.

Four other U. S. Soldiers all around camp.

Scene 5.

In Western Army Camp, Col. Harry Ward, sitting at his desk. For Harry has become a Colonel now. Corporal Charlie White enters and salutes. Hands message to Col. Ward from Commander in Chief of Western Division, U. S. Regulars.

(1.) Enter Charlie (Corporal White). Salutes Col. Ward and addressed him as he hands him message from Commander-in-chief of Western Division. Col. Ward, here is a message from the Commander for you. Very well, sir. (Col. Ward takes message and looks around to see if the other soldiers are listening and then he says): Come, sit down, Charlie, and let's dispense with a few of army formalities. I tell you Charlie, I don't like this matter of being called Colonel none too well by you, my old friend and schoolmate.

(2.) Charlie. Well, Harry, I don't mind, and I certainly do not envy you of your well merited promotion and honors. No one rejoices more than I in your success.

(3.) Harry. I know that Charlie, but I hate to be compelled to be stiff and formal with you when I know I love you as a brother, and oftentimes long to be out with you alone instead of being saluted and called Colonel so much. And out where we can talk over the past. But I must read the message from the chief. Come and look with me and let's see what new order I have for my men today. Charlie draws up his chair and they both read together.

Col. Harry Ward, Commander 19th U. S. Regulars—Sir: You are hereby directed to proceed at once to port with your men and take transport immediately with your men for Manila harbor in the Island of Luzon. You are to go immediately from there to the extreme northern mountainous section of the Island, and take charge and afford better police protection to all the whites that now live among the Negrito tribes in this section. You are ordered by the government to quell all riots and uprisings among the people with a strong hand. (Signed) Commander in Chief. Harry gives a long whistle and says: Well, Charlie, what do you think of that?

(4) Charlie. By the way, Harry, that is the same Island and same section of the country

where Sister Gertrude is working, nursing in our Church Hospital, located there for the care of those tribes.

(5). Harry (in much glee and delight). Well, who ever dreamed that affairs would ever take such a turn as this. Won't Gertrude be surprised to see us and our regiment there among those people? Perhaps we may be of some service to her, and it is certain that if she lives until we get there that her life will be protected by the last drop of blood of every man I have. But Charlie, I forgot to give you a letter that came here to headquarters for you while ago. Open it too, perhaps we have some more good news to read.

(6.) Charlie (takes letter, and opens and reads it, then whistles louder than ever). Well, Harry, listen here. It is from Father and Mother. They have sold their plantation in Georgia and have been traveling extensively since we all left home. They have now, they say, bought a large plantation near Manila in Luzon and are going there by the next steamer in order to be near Sister Gertrude and her work.

(7.) Herry. Well, this beats a fairy tale. Wonder if Gertrude will learn of our coming. I hope not, and that we may give her a pleasant surprise. And now Charlie, call the men to arms and let's proceed to pack at once, so that we may reach the port without delay.

(8.) Charlie. Col. Ward, what baggage are we to take?

(9.) Col. Ward. Nothing sir, but our regular equipment. The order calls for nothing more than the regular regimental outfit, arms, etc., except of course, the usual mascot will be allowed, but as you know, our company has never had one.

(10.) Charlie. By the way, Harry (becoming familiar again), speaking of a mascot, I believe the regiments are usually allowed some pet, say a dog, pony or something of the kind, and I suppose we might have one too, and say, we haven't one selected. May I have the privilege of selecting one to carry to Luzon with us.

(11.) Col. Ward. Certainly, you may Charlie, if you like. What do you select?

(12.) Charlie. I select Uncle Mose, the old Negro servant that I left home when we did, and is now located at his Brother's home near our camp..

(13.) Col. Ward. You can certainly have your desire in this, Charlie. I know of no one or anything, that I had rather accompany us than Uncle Mose. First call in the other Corporals so that I may give them my orders about packing. Then proceed at once to find Uncle Mose and bring him here.

(14.) Charlie goes out and the four Corporals enter. Harry gives them their orders about

packing and making ready to sail. They retire to their work.

(15.) Charlie comes in again, bringing Uncle Mose, and after saluting, turns him over to Col. Ward, who says: Well, Uncle Mose, I am glad to see your kind old face again.

(16.) Mose. And I'se glad to see you too, Massa Harry. I'se glad dot yuse been vanced in de army and now youse Col. Bless de Lawd! Bless de Lawd!

(17.) Harry. Well, Mose, I appreciate your interest in me. And I have sent for you to know if you will accompany our regiment on a trip across the ocean. Uncle Mose, we have been ordered to Luzon to do police duty there in the highlands, right among the same people where your Little Mistress Gertrude is at work, and we thought perhaps that you would like to go along.

(18.) Mose. Deed I does, Massa Harry. Deed I does. I'd cross mountains, swim ribers and eat dust wid dese old lips ob mine jes'fer de sake of seeing my little Missus once moh.

(19.) Col. Ward. Then Mose, that's a trade, and you can rest here while I go and see to some extra work about getting all our belongings loaded and just as soon as we are ready I will return for you. Col. Ward retires.

(20.) Mose (facing crowd). If dis don't beat de miracle of Jonah eating de whale, I'se no nigger at all. Going to see little Missus. Well,

I guess I is, and she's gwine to read de Testament
to me some moh, foh I die. Bless de Lawd. Bless
de Lawd. Curtain falls. End act 5.

ACT SIX.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

VI. St. Francis, Priest and Monk.

Four of his Philippino henchmen. All dressed in long black robes with red collars.

Scene 6.

In a room in St. Francis monastery. His four henchmen seated on a bench before him. The rooms lined with barrels of beer and intoxicating drink.

The Plot:

(1.) St. Francis speaks addressing his men. And my Hearties, I am going to call upon you for a piece of work far more daring than the one that you executed in removing that accursed heretic, Bessie Gordon, from our Island. They have now secured another nurse and teacher at that Protestant school and infirmary, to take the place of the one that you, my men, deprived them of, by your noble piece of work. This new nurse, a Miss White, I learn, is strowing poison in the minds of every patient that they get. She, by her heretical doctrines, is undermining my au-

thority with the people. She is telling one and all, that they should not worship the virgin Mary and that our Saint Ann's bone will not cure diseases. She furthermore, is telling the people that it's wrong to drink, and because of such teaching the sale of our brew is falling off to the people around here. So my hearties, this enemy of the Holy Catholic Church, must be removed from our midst by what ever means that comes handy to us. So tomorrow night at midnight, I want you to slip up to the window of the ward of the hospital in which she works, and after you see that she is alone, with no one near but the patients, slip in the door, bind and gag her, and bring her here to this monastery, and we will either force her to recant and worship the image of the virgin as well as kiss the bone of Saint Ann, or else we will carry her to yonder grove and burn her at the stake. After you have captured her, if possible, brain that Dr. Greer and wife with your clubs. But be more cautious how you approach him, for he is armed with modern weapons.

(2.) Ay, Ay, Most Holy Father, repeats all the henchmen as they stand. Tomorrow night it shall be done as you direct.

Curtain falls. End of Act. 6.

ACT SEVEN.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

VII.—Gertrude White in her ward.

Four little Negrito patients in bed. (four cots).

Four henchmen of St. Francis in their usual attire.

Scene 7.

In ward in Dr. Greer's Infirmary. Gertrude with her patients. Time at midnight.

(1.) Gertrude (speaking to herself). I am thankful for this glorious opportunity to be of service to my fellowmen and to my Maker, and as she speaks she goes from cot to cot and examines with tender care each patient. As she does the faces of St. Francis' henchmen appear at the window unobserved by her.

(2.) Gertrude walks backward and forth across the room quietly watching and caring for her charges. As she does the henchmen enter the room behind her and throw a large black cloth over her face, seize and bind her, and carry her from the room, leaving her patients terrified with fright.

Curtain falls. End of Act 7.

ACT EIGHT.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

VIII.—St. Francis, Monk and Priest.

Gertrude, white captive, in their power.

His four henchmen in their usual attire.

Scene 8.

In same room in Monastery as the one shown in Act 6. St. Francis seated at first but arises and opens door as henchmen enter, bringing Gertrude White, their captive, heavily blindfolded.

(1.) St. Francis arises and directs that his captive be unbound and allowed to see where she is. Then he speaks to her. Well, my fair young heretic, at last St. Francis, the priest of the Most Holy Roman Catholic Church, has you in his power.

(2.) Gertrude (straightening up, and with much show of courage asks): And pray, will you tell me, Sir, the purpose of such a cowardly attack upon a defenseless woman at midnight. What have I done to you or to your men, to incur your ill will, and to merit such ill treatment from you?

(3.) St. Francis. Ah! The arch enemy of my power, you shall soon be set at ease, as to my purposes in bringing you here. You by your teachings here, are making more heretics every day. You have taught the people not to worship the virgin Mary. You have told them that it would not do any good to kiss the bone of St. Ann for their diseases. And furthermore, you have told the people that it is wrong to drink beer, and by such teaching, have caused the sale of my brew to diminish. And now I have had you brought here that I may correct you in your errors, and I tell you now that you shall never escape from my power, for no power can rescue you here. Your friend, Dr. Greer and wife, are already dead. Yes they died by the clubs of my men, and your school is burned. There is no hope for you unless you submit to my demands.

(4.) Gertrude. Monster! Brute! What are your demands?

(5.) St. Francis: First, that you recant from the heretical doctrines that you have circulated. Second, that you worship this image of the Virgin Mary, *and* third, that you kiss this bone of St. Ann, and pledge to believe in its power to heal men of their diseases, and fourth, consent to become a nun in our nunnery, located just a few miles across the mountains from here, and in charge of a Sister whose godly piety is as unquestioned by true Catholics as mine.

(6.) Gertrude. And pray sir, tell me, what will be the penalty if I refuse your demands?

(7.) St. Francis. The penalty, fair heretic, will be that tomorrow at sunrise you will be led to yonder grove and burned at the stake for your sins. Just as our forefathers burned them at Smithfield in England, centuries ago. I tell you the world changes; but the Church of Rome, the Holy Church, never changes.

(8.) Gertrude. Thou child of the devil, thou hast well said, it never changes. It is as black as the heart in your bosom. Go from my presence wretch. I accept the penalty. I will never yield to your demands, even if I must perish at the stake.

(9.) St. Francis. Then fair heretic, you have pronounced your doom; tomorrow at sunrise, you shall die. St. Francis leaves, he and his men, and locks the door.

(10.) Then Gertrude falls on her knees and cries out, My God, my God, hast Thou forsaken me? And immediately, two or more voices behind the screen sings, Faith of our fathers living still, in spite of sword, dungeon, fire, etc.

Curtain falls. End of Act 8.

ACT NINE.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

IX.—St. Francis, the Roman monk and priest.

His four Philippino henchmen.

Gertrude White, the captive missionary nurse.

Col. Harry Ward.

Corporal Charlie White.

Four U. S. Regulars of their company.

Uncle Mose, the Negro servant, A. M. E. local preacher.

Esq. John White and wife.

Scene Act 9.

In St. Francis' grove near monastery, St. Francis and his four henchmen present. Gertrude White is bound to a stake and St. Francis' men are piling brush and kindling wood up around her. And before lighting the fire, St. Francis addresses her once again.

(1.) St. Francis. And now fair heretic, do you still persist in your refusal to recant of your heresies, and do you still refuse to yield to my demands. Before the fire is kindled I give you one more chance.

(2.) Gertrude (in a firm and unyielding voice, replies): Monster of the devil, I refuse. Of heresy, I am not guilty. I am a Protestant and thank God that I am and am willing to die for the faith that I hold dear. And upon this statement the monk orders his men to light the fire, and with her eyes upturned toward Heaven, Gertrude cries out, Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.

(3.) But at this juncture a U. S. bugle call is heard, and a volley of shots are fired. St. Francis' men fall dead at her feet. St. Francis starts to run, but a shot is fired at him and strikes him in the leg and he falls helpless to the ground.

(4.) Col. Harry Ward, in company with his Corporal, Charlie White, and four U. S. regulars, rush in, and Harry rushes to Gertrude and cuts the ropes that bind her to the stake.

(5.) Gertrude (addresses Harry and Charlie). Harry, my dear boy, and you Charlie, my brother, from whence did you come? You just arrived in time to save me from an awful death, but with a sigh of regret, I suspect those poor deluded fellows there (looking at St. Francis' dead men, have gone rather quickly to the judgment, unprepared.)

(6.) Harry speaks: Gertrude, my darling, I am now Colonel in the army and Charlie is in my regiment, the whole of which is encamped a few miles from here. I have been assigned to this section by the Government to protect the people

from the lawless and irresponsible bands. We as soon as we arrived, left the camp in charge of a junior officer and proceeded to look you up. We came to the ruins of your school and hospital, finding the charred bones of two occupants. We suspected foul play, and finding the footprints of four men near the buildings, we endeavored to locate a trail, which we finally did, and which led this way, and we followed it with our guns fixed and ready for any emergency, and when we came upon you in captivity, and about to be burned, I ordered my men to fire, which they did at your captors, and they did the executionary work that you see before you. And then, when that fellow was standing by witnessing the scene, started to run (pointing at the priest) I took a shot at him myself with my revolver and brought him to the ground. He doesn't seem to be dead, but if he is the instigator of this work, it would be far better for him that he had died with his fellows.

(7.) Charlie. That it would, Col. Ward, or Harry, if you please. For if that monk is the cause of my sister enduring all this suffering, then he shall be the one that will die at this stake, and my hands will light the fire that burns him. Tell us, Sister Dear, is he the cause of all this?

(8.) Gertrude. Yes, Harry and Charlie, (pointing to the monk). That is the wicked St. Francis, the head of the monastery, which is only a few yards from here. That is the one that

caused the death of Miss Bessie Gordon. And he, since my coming here, has done his best to banish we Protestants from the land, by either fair means or foul, and because I have been teaching the people the way of light and life, he had determined to kill me too, and would have, had not your timely arrival hindered him in his purpose.

(9.) Harry (turning to Charlie). Well, Charlie, He will not harm any more helpless missionary women, will he? And turning to his other men, Col. Ward bids them seize him and bind him to the stake, and so they seize him and start with him toward the stake.

(10.) Gertrude. Harry, my dear boy, and Charlie my brother; you must not and shall not hurt this man any further than he is hurt. We are Protestants, followers of the Christ, who prayed even upon the cross for His Father to forgive the men who had placed the cruel spikes in his hands and feet, and in the hour of my deliverance, I forgive this man for his awful, sinful intentions toward me, and you must spare his life for my sake.

(11.) Harry. Then for your sake, you Angel of Mercy, we will spare his life. But turning to the priest, who by now is writhing and groaning, Harry says: But you sir, shall by no means go free. You will remain a military prisoner of the United States government. Your monastery shall be turned over to our forces, and this lady, assist-

ed by our army surgeon, will carry on in that building, the work started by Dr. Greer, whose charred bones are now lying in the ashes of his burned school and hospital. And you, you hound of the infernal region, shall wear a ball and chain and work with your hands to help support this institution of true Christianity. And as an extra punishment for you, each day you shall listen to this lady read at least one chapter from the Protestant Bible, from the true word of God, and I hope at last you will find some mercy for your darkened and benighted soul.

(12.) Gertrude. Harry, you have well said and done the right and best Christian thing that could be done. And now pray tell me dear ones, since the excitement is over. Have you heard anything of late from father and mother—any late news from home.

(13.) Charlie answers: Gertrude, my dear Sister, we have one more surprise for you. Father and mother are now citizens of Luzon, and they accompanied us on this expedition, and old Mose, the Negro servant, too. After we scented danger, and for fear that the worst would happen to you, we compelled them, in company with Mose, to follow at some distance in the rear, lest we should suddenly come upon your dead body and they should utterly collapse. They have bought a large plantation near Manila and can be near you and your work from now on. They should have

caught up with our force by this time, and you may expect to see them soon.

(14.) Mose comes in at this time leading Esq. John White and wife. Deed yoh jes as well spect us, Little Missus, foh we's sho here, and Ise seed my little Missus agin, bless de Lawd, bless de Lawd.

(15) Gertrude runs and grasps her father and mother around their necks and pulls them together for an affectionate greeting.

(16.) Harry, who has been ordering his men to remove the dead bodies of St. Francis' men away, now turns and addresses Gertrude again. Now Gertrude, dear girl, since the Lord has blessed us in allowing us to see your face once again, and has reunited your family, I must insist that you now agree to become my wife. You becoming my wife now will not interfere with your duty to the poor natives here, for I am stationed here also as the guardian of the peace of this country, and I love you still, with the same passionate love of my childhood days. Say yes, my dear, and we shall be married at once.

(17.) Gertrude. I say Yes, Harry, my brave soldier boy; but we can't get married until we return on a trip to Manilla, for in these remote regions we have no ordained clergy except such as this monster, the St. Francis, that come so near burning your little missionary girl alive.

(18.) Charlie. Well, Sister you and Harry have my congratulations, but you must wait to be married, if such demons as this priest are all there is to say the ceremony.

(19.) Esq. White and wife. And ours too dear children, and let us all proceed to Manilla, where you can be married as soon as you wish.

(20.) Harry. Well, Gertrude dearest, to Manila we will go and be married by some Protestant clergyman, and as soon as our honeymoon is over, we will return to this place, where you, assisted by the medical members of my staff, can begin anew the work started by Dr. Greer in these regions, and my men and I will see to it that justice is administered to all alike, be he friend or foe to our faith, and that henceforth these islands are a safe place for human beings to live in, whether they be Protestant, Catholic, or Jew.

(21.) Mose, turning to the crowd and says: And now dis is de happiest Nigger in all de world. Ise seed my little Missus agin. Her and Massa Harry, Massa John and Miss Lizzy—am here and Massa Charlie too. All well, hearty and sound, and in dis Island, we's gwine to remain and work foh de Lawd. Remain I say, yes remain—protected by two flags—fust de Blood stained Banner ob de Cross, hanging as yoh see ober Little Missus' head, and wid Old Glory hanging as you see ober Master Harry's head, and wid dese two flags united in one purpose—and dat purpose right. To

all our foes we'll be a force invincible. Bless de Lawd! Bless de Lawd!

(As Mose closes these words Harry grasps one corner of Old Glory and Gertrude one corner of the Christian Banner, and as they bow their head the curtain drops and the play ends.)